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NEW ORLEANS, LA.

VESSELS—PASSAGE OF RATS TO OR FROM—DOCKING, BERTHING, AND DISCHARGE OF FREIGHT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SPREAD OF PLAGUE.

SECTION 1. *Be it ordained by the council of the city of New Orleans,* That it shall be unlawful for any vessel to dock in the city of New Orleans unless every hawser, or line, extending from said vessel to the wharf or dock shall be provided with and have properly attached thereto, immediately after docking, a rat shield or guard of such design and in such manner as is approved by the health officer of the city of New Orleans.

SEC. 2. *Be it further ordained, etc.,* That no gangplank, staging, or other structure whereon or whereby rats may leave the vessel and reach the wharf or dock shall be allowed to extend from said vessel to the wharf or dock, except during such time as loading or unloading is in progress: *Provided,* That when loading or unloading is in progress the owner, agent, master, or other officer in charge of said ship shall have stationed at each such point of loading or unloading a person whose duty it will be to guard said approaches to prevent the egress of rats from said ship.

SEC. 3. *Be it further ordained, etc.,* That after dark all such gangplanks, staging, and other structures leading from the vessel to the wharf or dock shall be removed, except in such cases where vessels work night and day, in which event section 2 will apply. Gangplanks or companionways may remain in place after nightfall, provided men be placed near by continuously to destroy escaping rats.

SEC. 4. *Be it further ordained, etc.,* That no crated cargo shall be permitted to leave such vessel unless and until the same shall have been inspected to insure that same contains no rats, and to prevent any rats from being brought ashore from said vessel.

SEC. 5. *Be it further ordained, etc.,* That it is hereby made the duty of the owner, agent, and master, or other officer in charge of said vessel docking in the city of New Orleans, to comply with the provisions of this ordinance.

SEC. 6. *Be it further ordained, etc.,* That the officers and employees of the dock board of the city of New Orleans are requested to, and the police force of the city of New Orleans are enjoined and required to, assist in the enforcement of this ordinance and to report any violation thereof to the board of health of the city of New Orleans.

SEC. 7. *Be it further ordained, etc.,* That the board of health of the city of New Orleans, through its officers, agents, and inspectors, are charged with the authority and duty to enforce the provisions of this ordinance and to prosecute all persons, firms, or corporations violating the same, and to take such other steps in behalf of the city of New Orleans against the introduction and spread of the bubonic plague.

SEC. 8. *Be it further ordained, etc.,* That the owner, agent, master, or other officer in charge of any vessel, or any other person, firm, or corporation, by himself or itself, or as the agent or employee of another, who shall violate any of the provisions of this ordinance, shall be subject to a fine of not less than $10 nor more than $25, or imprisonment in the parish prison for a term of not less than 10 days nor more than 30 days, or both, at the discretion of the recorder having proper jurisdiction of the same.

[Ordinance No. 8968, adopted Sept. 18, 1912.]